

Sunday Evening,
Aug. 21, 1856.

Dear Henry:

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I have just been informed that Daniel Taylor intends leaving for Providence in the morning; and, although I have been lying abed all day, and feel very feeble, in consequence of the injury done to my leg nearly a fortnight since, yet I must seize my pen a few moments, if only to say, for the thousandth time, that I love and admire you as "a brother, yea, above a brother." It is comforting to hear of the steady improvement of your health. May all your medicines be blessed by the Great Physician, and complete restoration be speedily obtained!

In jumping from the garden wall, I severely wounded my left leg, in front, a few inches below the knee, by striking against a sharp stump, which was concealed by the long grass. A gash was made about three inches in length - but I did not much regard it at the time. In the course of a week, finding the wound growing worse in spite of all I could do for it, I sent for Dr. Spalding, who, on examining it, thought it might be easily cured. But, up to this time, his remedies have been powerless, and it is more painful and troublesome than ever. Yesterday, while he was dressing it, I was barely enabled to keep from fainting by the aid of camphor, &c. As it prevents me from taking any exercise, I necessarily feel much bodily debility.

Helen has not felt well for several days past, and to-day ^{she} consulted the Dr. who gave her some medicine, which, in its operation, makes her feel very sick. All the rest of the family are in usual health. O what a blessing it is to be in ~~the~~ possession of a vigorous body and sound limbs! Well does the poet Thomson rapturously exclaim -

"O, who can speak the vigorous joys of health -
Unclogged the body, unobscured the mind!"

The morning rises gay with pleasing stealth -
The temperate evening falls serene and kind!"

And yet sickness teaches us many a useful lesson, and ought to be received as an admonitory angel. "For what is our life? It is even as a vapor, which appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away."

Have you read the discussion between Thompson and Breckinridge, in the Emancipator? How false and dastardly is the charge of the latter against Prof. Wright and myself, — of publishing incendiary placards to stir up a mob! Thus far, I ^{feel} somewhat disappointed in reading the discussion. Bro. Thompson does not concentrate and present his evidence of the guilt of this whole nation, as I expected he would; and he treats the insolent Breckinridge altogether too tenderly. None but an American can fairly compete with an American, on the subject of American slavery. Yet the debate will do good.

[My views of the Sabbath question, as incidentally presented in my review of Dr. Beecher's flaming speech at Pittsburgh, are exciting much comment, and subjecting me to much condemnation, as I anticipated. The only thing that I regret is, the insertion of a communication by Knapp, (written by friend Cakes,) headed "The New and Old Puritans," because it is written in a manner calculated to exasperate, and not to convince. I know how important it is that I should keep the columns of the Liberator clear of sectarianism, ^{and} have ^I never intended to assail any denominational feelings or peculiarities. The Sabbath question is not sectarian, but general — yet the discussion of it is not exactly proper ~~in the Lib.~~ I have received several letters, remonstrating with me on account of my sentiments, but chiefly on the erroneous supposition that I was about making my paper the arena of a sabbatical ^{controversy.} ~~question.~~ Some of these are expressed in kind and friendly language. Not so is the one sent to me by young Hyde of this village. Although he has paid in advance up to September, he says that he does not wish to receive another number of the paper — and he considers me "a dangerous member of the community, deserving

a Theological student at New Haven.

the reprobation of every lover of his country"!! — But the letter which grieves and surprises me most is that of Rev. Jonathan Farr of Harvard, with whom I believe you are somewhat acquainted. He says — "I had supposed you a very pious person, and that a large proportion of the abolitionists were religious persons" — "I have thought of you as another Wilberforce — but would Wilberforce have spoken thus of the day on which the Son of God rose from the dead?" — "I have supposed, that, in your great and incessant exertions in the anti-slavery cause, you were influenced by no worldly nor political motive — that yours was a holy zeal and a christian benevolence" — &c. &c. There is christian charity for you! — Because, with Calvin, Belsham, Paley, Fox, Whitby, Barclay, Gill, Selden, Luther, and many other distinguished commentators and pious men, I maintain that, under the gospel dispensation, there is no such thing as a "holy day," but that all our time ought ^{to} be sanctified by works of righteousness and in well-doing, — it follows, according to the insinuations of Mr. Farr, that I am not a pious person — that abolitionists are not religious — that I am influenced by worldly or political motives — that mine is not a holy zeal and a christian benevolence! — And yet this same individual complains in his letter as follows — "Though belonging to a denomination of Christians who are denied the Christian name by multitudes," &c. Surely, it is time for him to take the beam from his own eye — surely, if he is disposed to stigmatize me as an infidel, or shut me out from the pale of Christianity, because I differ with him as to the sanctity of an outward observance — he ought not to complain if he is treated in the same manner by others, because he differs with them as to the scheme of salvation, and the essential dignity of Jesus Christ. He asks — "Would Wilberforce have spoken thus," &c. What then? Is Christ or Wilberforce our exemplar? And I ask Mr. Farr in reply — "Would Wilberforce have denied the identity of Christ with the Father? or would he have been a Unitarian, to gain the applause of the world?" Such questions are not arguments, but fallacies, unworthy of a liberal mind. Bro. May is much grieved at Farr's letter — you will be, I think.

Tell Mr. George I will notice Prof. Harris
worth in the Liberator - am much obliged to him for his
facts.

Mr. May left for Boston on Friday morning, ac-
cording to calculation.

We shall be very glad to see Frank ^{Farley} & ^{Chace} Eliza
in Brooklyn.

Hurried but affectionately yours,

Wm. Lloyd Garrison

Mr. Henry E. Benson,

Providence,
R. I.

Care of Mr. Taylor.

